***How important is the literature review (and differentiating between various types of journals) and assessing prior research, theorists, and current instructional strategies?***

The literature review, as an Action Research, is one of the most important steppingstones toward implementing your intervention. Embarking on the beginnings of the literature review gives an Action Research the opportunity to truly evaluate the problem at hand. I found that when Crystal and I started to look for articles, we had great difficulty because we had yet to narrow down the problem that we were interested in looking into, and how we were going to approach it. Finding articles for the literature review forces you, as an Action Researcher, to hone in to a specific problem and develop an idea that is researchable. When approaching the literature review, we should also take into consideration that we need to look for resources that can help us a students pose each side of the argument. As we are not yet experts in the field of education, the literature review allows us the opportunity to research, assess, review and then use the resources we found to give support to our argument about the problem.

Once you have established your researchable problem, the literature review is a great way for Action Researchers to search the sea of information on their topics and differentiate between the different sources that are available. As the Internet grows, there are so many different resources available for researchers, which is definitely something positive. But, as Action Researchers, we need to be able to differentiate between credible sources and sources that are not credible.

There are researchers, and theorists, that dedicate themselves to researching areas in education and have become experts. As students in a research course, we should look to these theorists for advice, for additional resources, and to use their findings to better our understanding of the current issues and topics relating to the problem we are looking to address. Differentiating between various types of journals allows us as students and early Action Researchers to understand the quality of the data or research that we are reading. If we are planning to incorporate the research found, we should make sure that it is of the utmost quality, and that we have accessed the research that has been done by experienced theorists in the field. It is important that we take note to the different types of journals as they all serve different purposes in the field of education.

As we move forward into the literature review, and are at the stage of assessing prior research it is important to take into account the time in which the research took place, and to be sure that we have appropriate researched all sides of the problem. By assessing the research we can tell if it is current, and how it can help us further our Action Research. Each source should serve a purpose, and assist us in posing our problem and implementing our intervention. Understanding the current instructional strategies pertaining to the problem will allow you to develop an intervention that is appropriate to the problem. Current instructional strategies will give you a framework for the different types of classroom instruction that is taking place right now, and you as an Action Researcher can manipulate the instructional strategies to implement your intervention in an appropriate way. By evaluating current instructional strategies as well as the measureable results that each have produced, it can also help you develop the appropriate intervention. Interventions do not always have to involve changing the instructional strategy, but the intervention can complement the instruction.